National Policy on Child Labour

3050. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the broad features of the National Policy on Child Labour, 1987;

(b) whether Government propose to up date this policy to make it more purposeful; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government has formulated a National Policy on Child Labour, 1987 which contains the following main ingredients:—

- A legislative action plan;
- Focussing of general deveiopment programmes for benefiting child labour wherever possible; and
- Project based plan of action for launching of projects for the welfare of working children in areas of high concentration of child labour.

The Policy was formulated with the basic objective of suitably rehabilitating the children withdrawn from employment thereby reducing the incidence of child labour. So far, about 1.49 lakh children have been rehabilitated and mainstreamed into formal education system.

Voluntary Separation Scheme

3051. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any retirement scheme called—Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the organizations in which it has already been introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government introduced a Voluntary

Retirement Scheme and Voluntary Separation Scheme on 5.5.2000. Subsequently, however, the distinction between the two was removed under the liberalized scheme announced on 6.11.2001.

(c) The names of the Central Public Sector Undertakings which have opted for VRS upto 31st March, 2001 are given in statement [Refer to the statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 3046(b)]

Closing down of tea/coffee estates

3052. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many tea and coffee estates in the country have closed down during last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of workers rendered jobless; and

(c) the steps being taken to give alternative job opportunities to the jobless workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vocational Training to Women and Girls in Himachal Pradesh

3053. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be plesed to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Employment and Training is providing Vocational Training to Women and Girls in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, vocation-wise; and

(c) the number of women and girls who benefited during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Vocational Training is provided to men and women in all the Vocational Training Institutes which are set up by the Directorate General of Employment & Training and the State/UT